

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND
BILL NO. 01-5

Introduced by: Council President Hirsch at the request of the County Executive

Legislative Day No. 01-07

Date February 13, 2001

AN ACT to repeal and reenact, with amendments, Chapter 202, Plumbing, of the Harford County Code, as amended; to provide for the adoption of the 2000 National Standard Plumbing Code, with certain amendments thereto, to stand in lieu of the 1996 National Standard Plumbing Code; and generally relating to plumbing regulations in Harford County, Maryland.

By the Council, February 13, 2001

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled

on: March 13, 2001

at: 7:15 P.M.

By Order: James E. Massey, Jr., Council Administrator

PUBLIC HEARING

Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, a public hearing was held on March 13, 2001, and concluded on March 13, 2001.

James E. Massey, Jr., Council Administrator

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law. Underlining indicates language added to Bill by amendment. Language lined through indicates matter stricken out of Bill by amendment.

Section 1. Be It Enacted that Chapter 202, Plumbing, of the Harford County Code, as amended, be and it is hereby repealed and reenacted and all to read as follows:

Chapter 202. Plumbing

§ 202-1. Adoption of standards.

A. The National Standard Plumbing Code, [1996] 2000, (hereinafter referred to as the Plumbing Code), is hereby adopted and, by reference thereto, is made a part of this chapter with the same force and effect as though set out in full herein, except for such changes, amendments and revisions as are specified in this chapter. At least two copies of THE Plumbing Code and supplements thereto are on file and open for public use, examination and inspection in the office of the Director of Administration.

B. The National Fuel Gas Code, N.F.P.A. 54 (A.N.S.I. Z-223.1), [1996] 1999 Edition, as published by American Gas Association and National Fire Protection Association, is hereby adopted and, by reference thereto, is made a part of this chapter with the same force and effect as though set out in full herein, save and except for such changes, amendments and revisions as are specified in this chapter. At least two copies of the standards and supplements thereto are on file and open for public use, examination and inspection in the office of the Director of Administration.

§ 202-2. Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to provide practical plumbing and gas fitting regulations to safeguard persons and gas fitting conditions in Harford County.

§ 202-3. Scope and applicability.

The provisions of this chapter shall apply to and govern plumbing and gas fitting regulations to safeguard persons and gas fitting conditions in Harford County.

§ 202-4. Modifications.

The following sections are changes or additions to certain sections of the Plumbing Code:

A. The definition of “plumbing” in Subsection 1.2 is deleted and the following is inserted in lieu thereof:

“Plumbing: the practice, materials and fixtures used in the installation, maintenance, extension, alteration and removal of all piping, plumbing fixtures, plumbing appliances, and plumbing appurtenances in connection with any of the following: sanitary drainage, storm facilities, venting systems, public or private water supply systems, within or adjacent to any building structure or conveyance; also the practice and materials used in the installation, maintenance, extension, alteration or removal of storm water, refrigeration and air conditioning drainage, liquid waste or sewage, and water supply, of any premises to their connection with the water supply system or to an acceptable disposal facility. ‘Plumbing’ also means the practice and materials in the installation, repair, service and replacement of gas piping, gas utilization equipment, and associated accessories.

Except for the initial connection to a potable water supply downstream of the backflow preventer and the final connection that discharges indirectly into a public or private disposal system, the following are excluded from the definition: all piping, equipment or material used exclusively for environmental control, for incorporation of liquids or gases into any product or process for use in the manufacturing or storage of any product, including product development, or for the installation, alteration, repair or removal of automatic sprinkler systems installed for fire protection only or their related appurtenances or standpipes connected to automatic sprinkler systems or overhead or underground fire lines beginning at a point where water is used exclusively for fire protection.”

B. The definition of “Plumbing Board” is added to Subsection 1.2 as follows:

“‘Plumbing Board’ means the Harford County Plumbing Board as found in Chapter 16, Section 16-7 of the Harford County Code.”

1 C. A new Subsection [7.10.5.G] 7.3.9, entitled "Faucet Installations," is added as
2 follows:

3 "Fiberglass or plastic tub and shower enclosures cannot be installed with faucets
4 back-to-back unless approved by the administrative authority."

5 D. Subsection 2.16(E) is deleted and the following is inserted in lieu thereof:

6 "Water lines shall not be installed in exterior walls. Exterior walls shall be considered to be
7 any wall not heated on both sides.

8 Exceptions:

9 1. In cases where the insulation 'R' factor between the outside of the exterior
10 wall and the piping is equal to or greater than required by the Building Code.

11 2. In cases where air vents are installed in such a manner as to ensure infiltration
12 of conditioned air to the piping."

13 E. A new Subsection 10.15.9.A, entitled "Drip Pans," is added as follows:

14 (1) "Water heaters and clothes washing machines, when installed above finished
15 areas, shall be installed in an approved pan and drained to an approved point of discharge."

16 (2) "Where required, pans shall be of approved plastic or galvanized metal, be
17 leak proof, and have sides a minimum of two inches high."

18 F. A new Subsection 7.2.A, entitled "Maryland Accessibility Code," is added as follows:

19 "Plumbing fixtures, materials and clearances for those fixtures shall be accessible to
20 individuals with disabilities as specified in the Maryland Accessibility Code, Code of Maryland
21 Regulations 05.02.02, et seq."

22 G. Subsection 2.16(a) is deleted and the following is inserted in lieu thereof:

23 "Water service piping shall be installed below record frost. Minimum earth coverage shall be
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forty-two (42) inches.”

H. A new Subsection [2.169(b)] 2.16.B is added as follows:

“Minimum earth coverage for a building sewer shall be twelve (12) inches.”

I. Subsection 2.19.1 is deleted and the following is inserted in lieu thereof:

“The water distribution and drainage systems of any building in which plumbing fixtures are installed shall be connected to a public water supply or public sewer system, respectfully, if the public water or public sewer system is within ten (10) feet of any property line of the premises, or other reasonable distances as determined by the administrative authority.”

J. Subsection [6.1.1] 6.2.7.B is added as follows:

“A grease interceptor shall be required in restaurants and other similar establishments, except in special cases as determined by the administrative authority. The minimum size of grease interceptors shall be one thousand (1,000) gallons. The grease interceptor shall be located outside of the building unless otherwise determined by the administrative authority.”

K. A new Subsection 10.6.6, entitled “Water Service,” is added as follows:

“Approved water service piping to the point of entrance of a building including piping to the pressure reducing valve shall have a minimum pressure rating of 200 p.s.i., 73°F. Acceptable materials for a water service include brass pipe, copper tube or copper pipe, cast iron water pipe, polyethylene plastic tubing, and chlorinated polyvinyl chloride service pipe. Copper tube or copper pipe when used under ground may not be less than type L. All threaded ferrous pipe and fittings shall be galvanized or cement lined and when used under ground in corrosive soil or filled ground, shall be coal tar enamel coated, or the equivalent and threaded joints shall be coated and wrapped when installed.”

L. A new Subsection 10.6.7, entitled “Distribution Pipe,” is added as follows:

1 “Water distribution system pipe shall be of brass pipe, copper tube or copper pipe, galvanized
2 steel pipe, polyethylene and chlorinated polyvinyl plastic when approved for hot or cold use. Copper
3 tube or copper pipe when used underground may not be less than type L and when used above
4 ground may not be less than type M.”

5 M. A new Subsection 10.6.8, entitled “Water Meters,” is added as follows:

6 “Each dwelling unit in a carriage court dwelling, as defined in § 267-4 of the Harford County
7 Code, must have a private individual water meter.”

8 N. Subsection 10.14.6 and Figures 10.14.6A and 10.14.6B are deleted and the following
9 is inserted in lieu thereof:

10 “Excessive Pressures.

11 1. On all public water supply systems an approved pressure reducing valve shall
12 be installed in the building water service near its point of entrance to the building. Pressure to the
13 building water distribution system shall be limited to a maximum pressure of 70 p.s.i.

14 2. On all public water supply systems, the water distribution system shall be
15 relieved of pressure from thermal expansion by one of the following methods:

16 A. Air chambers when equipped with an accessible means for restoring
17 the air.

18 B. Approved mechanical devices. Pressure at any fixture shall be limited
19 to no more than 70 p.s.i. under no-flow conditions.

20 Exception: Where the water service pipe supplies water directly to:

- 21 1) A water pressure booster system;
22 2) An elevated water gravity tank; or
23 3) Pumps provided in connection with a hydropneumatic or
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elevated gravity water supply tank system.”

§ 202-5. Certification.

A. All persons performing plumbing and/or gas fitting services in Harford County, shall be registered with the Division of Plumbing Services, and shall have a current certificate of registration.

B. To obtain a certificate of registration, the applicant shall have been qualified and approved by one of the following:

(1) The Maryland State Board of Plumbing;

(2) The Baltimore County Plumbing Board or the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission; or

(3) The Harford County Plumbing Board.

C. Master plumber/gas fitters certificate. Any applicant who applies for a master certificate to perform the practice of plumbing or gas fitting in Harford County shall provide the Division of Plumbing Services with the following information:

(1) Current license number issued by the Maryland State Board of Plumbing or other accepted jurisdiction;

(2) Current business address with phone number; and

(3) A current certificate of insurance equal to or greater than such amount as required by the Maryland State Board of Plumbing.

D. Journeyman certificate. Any journeyman performing the practice of plumbing or gas fitting in Harford County shall be registered with the Division of Plumbing Services. To receive a certificate of registration such person shall provide the Division of Plumbing Services with the following information:

(1) Current license number issued by the Maryland State Board of Plumbing or other accepted jurisdiction; and

(2) Name of current employer with employer's address and phone number.

E. Apprentice certificate. Any apprentice providing assistance to any registered master plumber or gas fitter providing service in Harford County shall be registered with the Maryland State Board of Plumbing or other accepted jurisdiction.

F. Liquefied petroleum gas installation license. All persons performing liquefied petroleum gas fitting in Harford County shall be registered with the Division of Plumbing Services. To receive a [certification] CERTIFICATE of registration, such person shall provide the Division of Plumbing Services with the following information:

(1) The person's current license number issued by the Maryland State Board of Plumbing;

(2) The name, address and telephone number of the person's current employer; and

(3) A current certificate of insurance equal to or greater than such amount as required by the Maryland State Board of Plumbing.

G. Well pump/water conditioner installer's certificate. Any person making well pump/water conditioner installations in Harford County shall register with the Division of Plumbing Services. To receive a certificate of registration the applicant shall provide the following information:

(1) Current Maryland State well pump/water conditioner installers license;

(2) Current place of business with phone number; and

(3) A current certificate of insurance equal to or greater than such amount as

1 required by the Maryland State Board of Plumbing.

2 H. Master limited plumber's certificate. A master limited plumber's certificate may be
3 issued to a corporation, firm or company not primarily engaged in the plumbing business which
4 desires to do plumbing work limited to maintenance, testing and repair in connection with its
5 primary business. Such license shall specify the name of the representative or representatives
6 employed by the corporation, company or firm under whose direction such plumbing work shall be
7 performed and who shall be qualified by an examination by the Maryland State Plumbing Board.

8 I. Journeyman limited plumber's certificate. This certificate may be issued to any
9 limited journeyman working under the direction of a person who has a current master limited
10 plumber's certificate.

11 J. On-site utility contractor's certificate. This certificate shall be issued to a person who
12 is deemed qualified by the Harford County Plumbing Board to install on-site water service, piping,
13 sewer and storm drainage piping from the property line to any structure on such property. To
14 receive a certificate, the applicant shall demonstrate a minimum of five years of supervisory
15 experience in the utility contractor trade [and have successfully completed 32 hours of backflow
16 certification training through an entity deemed acceptable by the Harford County Plumbing Board,]
17 and certification in OSHA requirements for confined spaces and OSHA Subpart "P" in trench safety
18 by an entity deemed acceptable by the Harford County Plumbing Board; or have a certificate from
19 another jurisdiction obtained in an equivalent manner as determined by the administrative authority.
20 Such applicant shall provide the DIVISION OF Plumbing Services [Division] with the following
21 information:

- 22 (1) A current business address and telephone number; and
23 (2) A current certificate of insurance equal to or greater than such amount as
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1 required by the State of Maryland Plumbing Board.

2 The Board, in its discretion, may require a written test to determine proficiencies within the
3 scope of the foregoing certificate. The administrative authority shall require a certified utility person
4 on all work sites to direct and control installations. All utility work persons on site shall have, on
5 their person, a current certificate of completion of training in confined spaces and Subpart "P" in
6 trench safety. The fee to obtain an on-site utility contractor's certificate shall be \$45.

7 K. Practice of plumbing and gas fitting. No person shall engage in plumbing or gas
8 fitting as defined in this chapter in Harford County, unless that person has been duly authorized to do
9 so by the issuance of one of the foregoing certificates.

10 L. Fees for certificate of registration and exams. Fees shall be as set forth in Chapter
11 157 of the Harford County Code.

12 M. [All such certificates shall be renewed each year by payment of renewal fee equal to
13 the original charge set forth herein prior to the first day of May. Such certificates shall be issued for
14 one year beginning May 1st, and expiring April 30 in the succeeding year.] ALL SUCH
15 CERTIFICATES SHALL BE RENEWED EACH YEAR BY PAYMENT OF RENEWAL FEE
16 EQUAL TO THE ORIGINAL CHARGE SET FORTH HEREIN PRIOR TO MAY 1, 2001 AND
17 EXPIRING APRIL 30, 2002. THEREAFTER, ALL SUCH CERTIFICATES SHALL BE ISSUED
18 FOR A TWO-YEAR PERIOD BEGINNING MAY 1, 2002 AND EXPIRING APRIL 30TH ON
19 THE EVEN YEARS.

20 N. The administrative authority may, in its discretion, suspend or revoke the certificate
21 of any person who makes any false or misleading statement in an application, or who sells, lends or
22 otherwise permits any improper use of a certificate or who obtains permits for others to do plumbing
23 or gas fitting work, who fails to maintain a regular place of business, or who commits any violation
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1
2 of the Harford County Plumbing or Gas Fitting Code.

3 O. Upon receipt of written requests directed to the administrative authority, the
4 administrative authority, in its discretion, may suspend or revoke the certificate of any person who
5 commits any violation of the Harford County Plumbing and Gas Fitting Code or any other law or
6 regulation governing the conduct of the plumbing and gas fitting business.

7 (1) No certificate shall be suspended or revoked except after public hearing before
8 the administrative authority of which the certificate holder shall receive at least five days notice in
9 writing, together with a statement of the charges. Upon such hearing, the administrative authority
10 may suspend any certificate for such a period of time as it may find proper, or may revoke same.

11 (2) In the event of a revocation, no application for the reinstatement of a revoked
12 certificate shall be entertained until the expiration of six months from the date of such revocation. At
13 the end of such six month period, the administrative authority may, in its discretion, reinstate a
14 revoked certificate.

15 P. Any certificate holder shall notify the administrative authority immediately of any
16 changes in location of business, employer, or phone number.

17 **§ 202-6. Permits.**

18 A. No work authorized under this title, unless excepted in this chapter, shall be
19 undertaken without a permit therefore issued by the Department of Inspections, Licenses and
20 Permits. Only master plumbers/gas fitters, master gas fitters, well pump/water conditioner installers
21 and on-site utility contractors shall be eligible to receive permits and then only to the extent that they
22 are authorized to do work under this Code.

23 B. A plumbing permit required by the administrative authority may be issued to a bona
24 fide owner of a single-family dwelling occupied exclusively by the owner to do any plumbing work

regulated by this Code on the dwelling, on condition that such work is done in compliance with this Code. The owner must be qualified by the administrative authority before a permit may be issued.

C. Permits not required:

(1) General repairs. No permit shall be required for the replacement of faucets, ball cocks, exposed fixture traps or shut-off valves.

(2) Stoppages and leaks. No permit shall be required for the clearing of stoppages or repairing of leaks, when such repairs do not require the replacement of plumbing fixtures or any portion of the drainage system.

D. Permit fees. The schedule of fees for the issuance of permits for plumbing and gas fitting work shall be as designated in Chapter 157 of the Harford County Code, as amended.

E. Change of master plumber/gas fitter.

(1) A permit may be canceled by one master plumber/gas fitter, master gas fitter, water pump contractor or on-site utility contractor and a new permit issued to another master plumber/gas fitter, master gas fitter, water pump contractor or on-site utility contractor upon the written request of the owner of the property or the owner's agent. There shall be a seven working day waiting period before issuing a new permit. The seven working day waiting period begins when the Division of Plumbing Services receives such request from the owner or owner's agent. During this time the original plumber/gas fitter will be notified by the administrative authority that the owner or owner's agent has submitted such request to the Division of Plumbing Services.

(2) After seven working days, a new permit may be issued. At this time, the new master plumber/gas fitter, master gas fitter, water pump contractor or on-site utility contractor shall sign an agreement assuming responsibility for the entire plumbing/gas fitting job. The fee for the new permit will be the same cost as the original permit. The waiting period may be waived upon the

1 agreement of all parties.

2 **§ 202-7. Plans and specifications.**

3 All plans and specifications required herein shall be designed by a registered professional
4 engineer licensed to do business in the State of Maryland except that a master plumber/gas fitter,
5 master gas fitter or on-site utility contractor registered to do business in Harford County may design
6 plumbing or gas fitting systems for their own installation. Each set of plans and specifications
7 submitted shall have thereon the name and address of the designer, and certification by the designer
8 that the plans and specification have been prepared in accordance with this chapter. The plans and
9 specifications shall be submitted to the administrative authority and shall have thereon complete
10 design and calculation criteria.

11 **§ 202-8. Private water systems.**

12 No property served by a private water system shall be directly or indirectly connected to any
13 public water supply until it is disconnected from its original source of supply, inspected and
14 approved by the administrative authority, and connected in accordance with the provisions of the
15 Code.

16 **§ 202-9. Inspection of plumbing and gas fitting.**

17 A. The Division of Plumbing Services shall cause the inspection of all plumbing and gas
18 fitting for which a plumbing or gas permit, other than an annual inspection permit, is required in
19 Harford County during the course of construction and upon completion of the construction. If any
20 defects are found, the administrative authority shall have the authority to order such plumbing or gas
21 fitting to be corrected to comply with the provisions of this Code. It shall be unlawful for any person
22 to cover or enclose from view any portions of such plumbing or gas fitting prior to the time that the
23 Division of Plumbing Services has inspected and approved it. The Division of Plumbing Services
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1 shall prepare a written report of all such inspections and will maintain such report in an appropriate
2 file.

3 B. No potable well water service line or well for potable water supply shall be covered or
4 enclosed from view prior to inspection by the Division of Plumbing Services. The service line and
5 all underground fittings connected thereto shall be tested for leaks and overall integrity prior to
6 covering and enclosing the line.

7 **§ 202-10. Emergency work.**

8 When work of an emergency nature must be performed to rectify a possible health hazard or
9 dangerous condition, the master plumber/gas fitter, master gas fitter, water pump contractor or on-
10 site utility contractor, as the case may be, may undertake such work prior to the issuance of a permit,
11 but it will be his or her responsibility to notify the administrative authority of the emergency and
12 obtain a permit for doing such work within two working days.

13 **§ 202-11. Piping through adjacent property.**

14 Sewer, water and gas piping shall not be connected or installed on a property other than the
15 property to be served. Plumbing or gas piping connections which cannot be made except by the
16 crossing of non-serviced property, may, with the permission of the administrative authority, be
17 carried through a right-of-way or easement across non-serviced property provided that:

18 A. All privileges of such right-of-way or easement are obtained by the property owner
19 desiring service, without any cost or liability to Harford County;

20 B. Such easement of right-of-way shall meet all regulatory requirements of the authority
21 having jurisdiction; and

22 C. Such easement or right-of-way shall be granted and conveyed by formal deed
23 recorded in the land records of Harford County.

1 **§ 202-12. Violations and penalties.**

2 A. Any person, firm or corporation who individually, collectively, or through others shall
3 construct, erect, alter or repair any plumbing or gas fitting work in violation of any provision of this
4 chapter shall be subject to a misdemeanor charge and upon conviction shall be subject to a fine of
5 not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment of not more than three months or both. Each day a violation
6 exists shall be considered a separate violation.

7 B. Harford County may also proceed by civil injunction in the enforcement of this
8 chapter.

9 Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted that this Act shall take effect 60 calendar days from the date it
10 becomes law.

EFFECTIVE: May 18, 2001

*The Council Administrator does hereby certify that
fifteen (15) copies of this Bill are immediately available for
distribution to the public and the press.*

James E. Massey, Jr.

Council Administrator

HARFORD COUNTY BILL NO. 01-5Brief Title) Plumbing Code - 2000 National Standard

is herewith submitted to the County Council of Harford County for enrollment as being the text as finally passed.

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT

James E. Massey, Jr.
Council Administrator

Date 3-13-01

ENROLLED

Geoff H.
President, County Council of
Harford County, Maryland

Date 03.13.01

BY THE COUNCIL

Read the third time.

Passed: LSD 01-10 (March 13, 2001)

Failed of Passage: _____

By Order

James E. Massey, Jr.
Council Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 15th day of March, 2001, at 4:00 p.m.



James E. Massey, Jr.
Council Administrator

BY THE EXECUTIVE

James M. Perkins
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED: Date March 19, 2001

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill (No. 01-5), having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, becomes law on March 19, 2001.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 18, 2001

James E. Massey, Jr., Administrator

BILL NO. 01-5